

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE 1

THE BALTIMORE SUN  
2 May 1979

## Bush enters presidential race, pledges unity but digs at rivals

By CARL P. LEUBSDORF  
Washington Bureau of The Sun

Washington—George Bush, a 54-year-old New Englander turned Texan, formally entered the Republican presidential race yesterday.

He pledged "a new candor" and said he would avoid attacking his rivals. But despite that pledge, he managed to take several verbal slaps at two of his main rivals, Ronald Reagan and John B. Connally.

Along with those two, and Senator Howard H. Baker, Jr. (R., Tenn.), Mr. Bush is considered among those most likely to win the 1980 GOP nomination.

The formal entry of the man who has held more top government posts than any of the other GOP contenders took place before several hundred cheering supporters at the National Press Club here. Afterward, Mr. Bush flew north for appearances in four early primary states, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont.

In his declaration of candidacy, the boyish-looking Mr. Bush referred to himself as "a lifelong Republican" who has worked for the principles of Presidents Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt and Dwight D. Eisenhower.

In so doing, he left out the two most recent Republican presidents, Richard M. Nixon and Gerald R. Ford, though he said he "was thinking more in historical terms" and didn't mean anything by it.

But he also was alluding to the fact that both Mr. Reagan and Mr. Connally are one time Democrats. And he made another pointed reference to Mr. Connally when he denounced "those who contributed to the short-sighted policies" of the era in which he first sought office, the 1960's. During that period, Mr. Connally was a close associate of Democratic President Lyndon B. Johnson and was then himself the Democratic governor of Texas.

As for Mr. Reagan, Mr. Bush noted in response to a question about his attitude towards the free-enterprise system that he learned about it while operating a successful oil contracting business, "not lecturing about it on the rubber-pea circuit," a reference to Mr. Reagan, who gained initial political prominence that way.

At another point, however, Mr. Bush said he would make "an all-out effort" to avoid criticizing fellow GOP candidates, declaring, "I just don't want to divide an already minority party."

Among the positions that Mr. Bush took in his formal statement and in answering questions were these:

- He has "serious reservations" about the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) treaty being negotiated by the Carter administration and feels "there is no substitute for credible military strength in dealing with potential adversaries."

- "We've gone too far in this country in tying the hands of the CIA [the Central Intelligence Agency, which he once headed]," a comment that drew the biggest applause of the session.

- He plans to make full financial disclosure, including release of income-tax returns for the past five years and an asset statement, a position that Mr. Connally has refused to take. He said that will dispel "the myth to some degree that I'm a rich Texas something-or-other."

- The Carter administration has proved that "good intentions are not enough in a President" and that "New Foundations cannot be built on these old pilings" of what he called "the philosophy of tax-and-spend that has long dominated" Democratic party leadership.

The son of the late Senator Prescott Bush (R., Conn.), Mr. Bush moved to Texas as a young man. After failing in a 1964 Senate bid, he was elected to the House in 1966 and 1968 from a Houston district that had previously been Democratic.

After his second Senate loss, to Democratic Senator Lloyd M. Bentsen, Jr., in 1970, he became ambassador to the United Nations, chairman of the Republican National Committee, director of the Central Intelligence Agency and United States representative to the People's Republic of China during the Nixon and Ford administrations.

He has the support of a large number of Republican congressmen and of a number of top people in the 1976 Ford presidential campaign, including James A. Baker, the Houston lawyer who is his campaign chairman, and a number of top New Hampshire Republicans. One of his key Southern aides is Charles C. Snider, manager of George C. Wallace's 1972 and 1976 presidential campaigns.

Mr. Bush said at the news conference that he knew he had to make "a credible, convincing showing" in the early New England primaries. His managers believe their main rival at that stage will be Senator Baker and that only one of the two, who are considered moderates in the GOP spectrum, will survive that stage of the GOP presidential race.